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ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the XXXX

**Action Document for the Syrian Further and Higher Education Cooperation (SFHEC)**

## 1. IDENTIFICATION

<b>Title/Number</b>	CRIS number:		
<b>Total cost</b>	Total estimated cost: EUR €___ depending on levels of co-financing Total amount of EU contribution: €10m This action is co-financed XXXX		
<b>Aid method / Management mode and type of financing</b>	Project Approach through a call for proposals		
<b>DAC-code</b>	11420/11430	Sector:	Education

## 2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

### 2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

This action is designed to help mitigate the impact of the current crisis in Syria. It aims to complement on-going humanitarian activities in Syria by addressing the medium and long term requirements of those in need. The action supports a number of the early recovery elements of the revised "Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan" (SHARP) for the period January to December 2013. While many refugees are leaving Syria to escape the violence, others are leaving due to the fact that they cannot access basic services and/or have no means of income. Unless the situation in Syria is improved – in terms of basic services and income earning potential – these factors will continue to swell the number of Syrian refugees leaving for neighbouring countries, notably Lebanon and Jordan. From both a political and development perspective, it is preferable to address the needs of the affected Syrian population inside Syria, before they become refugees in neighbouring countries. Besides, the needs of all kind inside Syria, in particular among internally displaced persons (IDPs), are huge. Providing assistance during a civil war is challenging, because of limited access due to the security situation and because of limited implementation capacity on the ground.

There is consensus that the current crisis is having a disproportionate impact on women and children. The UN estimates that more than 10.8 million people – nearly half of the Syrian population – are in need of humanitarian assistance. Nearly 6.5 million people are internally displaced, of which 50% are children. In addition, by September 2014, around 3 million Syrians had left Syria, registering as refugees in surrounding countries. In the northern areas of Syria – which are under the control of opposition forces – the central Government is often no longer providing basic services (water, electricity, waste management, etc.). While local governance structures have emerged, these are often under resourced and lack the capacity to fulfil the role of service provider.

The action proposed is the establishment of a programme, which encourages further and higher education providers based in the region to submit proposals which address further and

higher education needs of young Syrians (age group 18-28) in Syria and in the host countries in the region. This mechanism will:

- Make use of existing potentials;
- Meet needs of the target group for participating in EQF levels 5 and 6 (or equivalent) education: the programme will target university programmes at BA level (first university cycle) and vocational training at tertiary level.
- Support equal access to further and higher education to the ones most in need;
- Provide guidance and orientation for the target group to identify the most appropriate education opportunity;
- Contribute to better coordination and to continuously improving further and higher education interventions in the region;
- Further promote the use of e-learning tools and approaches in further and higher education.

## **2.2. Context**

### 2.2.1. Syrian crisis context

The Syrian conflict, now in its fourth year has led to one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent decades. In addition, the regional impact of the crisis has been amplified to a point that the crisis now risks destabilising the entire region, exacerbating divisions along religious, ethnic and political lines, particularly in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

With neither side able to gain a military victory, and barring a swift political solution, the conflict looks set to escalate in an unpredictable manner in Syria and perhaps beyond, potentially leaving a legacy of sectarian violence and conflict for years to come.

During 2014 the number of conflict-related deaths surpassed 190,000, with 650,000 injured. Besides the high numbers of IDPs and people in need of assistance, access remains a critical issue: at least 4.6 million Syrians are in areas hard to reach by humanitarian assistances as a result of insecurity. Over 241,000 people are in locations besieged by the Government or opposition groups without access to basic services.

#### *2.2.1.1. Economic and social situation and poverty analysis*

Syria's economic situation continues to worsen. Economic activity has dropped and/or stopped in many places as a consequence of the war. Since 2011, the economy has contracted considerably with estimates ranging from 40% to 60% of gross domestic product (GDP as of early 2014). GDP per capita, education rates and health standards have declined substantially, as many public infrastructures have been destroyed or damaged. Labour market participation rates have probably decreased even further. Estimates based on the latest labour force survey from 2011 suggest that the number of employed people declined by 55% between 2011 and the end of 2013. The unemployment rate is estimated to have increased from 10% to 54% during the same period, in a context of large numbers of IDPs, refugees and growing informality. The lack of economic opportunities has contributed to an increase of poor households; approximately 75% of the population now lives in poverty, and approximately 54% in extreme poverty.

But the impacts and costs of the Syrian crisis extend well beyond Syria's borders: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that by the end of 2014 the number of Syria refugees will reach 3.59 million, with 1.5 million refugees in Lebanon, 1 million in Turkey, 700,000 in Jordan, 250,000 in Iraq and 140,000 in Egypt. Were this to be the case, this would mean that by the end of this year Syrian refugees would account for more than 30% of the Lebanese and 16% of the Jordanian population. The Regional Response Plan for 2014 estimates that the cost of addressing the impact crisis in Lebanon and Jordan was

USD 1.8 billion and USD 1.3 billion respectively. These countries and are now confronted with a situation which threatens their internal stability in the absence of substantial additional international support. In addition, the fate of the 529,000 Palestine refugees that were living in Syria adds another threat to the political and stability of both countries.

### *2.2.1.2. National development policy*

Syria's national development objectives have normally been laid out in a series of 5 year plans. The 10th five-year plan covered the period 2006-2010 and while the 11th five-year plan for 2011-2015 was drafted, it was not officially adopted. Due to the violence and unacceptable human rights situation, the Council of the European Union suspended EU bilateral cooperation with the Government of Syria in May 2011. Since then EU's economic and development assistance to address the Syrian crisis under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and its successor the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) has been channelled mainly through UN organisations and NGOs. UN organisations, as well as a number of NGOs, are currently working from Damascus (although a number of organisations also have offices in various governorates) and serve both Government-held and opposition-held areas (through cross-line operations). Meanwhile, a number of other NGOs are working from either southern Turkey or Lebanon and serve predominately opposition-held areas (through cross-border operations). The main priorities with regard to both humanitarian and early recovery (development) actions inside Syria are outlined in the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) January to December 2014, prepared in coordination between the United Nations System, the Government of Syria, and humanitarian actors in Syria.

This action supports a number of the activities foreseen under the SHARP, in particular those linked to education.

### *2.2.2. Sector context: policies and challenges*

The target group of this programme are Syrian refugees of university age (18-24). A large number of Syrian students have either been displaced inside Syria or fled the country and have settled down in neighbouring countries, the majority in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. They face a very unique situation: not only are their participation rates in further and higher education lower than those of their peers in host countries, but they also face a significant drop in participation vis-à-vis the Syrian access rate before 2011. The latter circumstance in particular indicates a considerable unmet demand for further and higher education. The table below shows estimates of the Syrian Persons of Concern (PoC), aged between 18 and 25 as of end 2014<sup>1</sup>. The table also shows the gap to fill with the intervention to reach potential pre-war participation levels of about 20%.

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<sup>1</sup> For IDPs we use information as of March 2015, provided via the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), because there has been a very significant increase (of an over one million) in persons of concern.

## Syrian Students in Need, in Syria and outside Syria

Country	Syrians aged 18-24 in the country (est.)	Syrians enrolled in higher education	20% target	Current Participation	Gap to fill with intervention
<b>Syria (2010)</b>	3,340,500 <sup>(b)</sup>	661,281 <sup>(a)</sup>		20%	
<b>Lebanon</b>	146,456	8,549	29,291	6%	20,742
<b>Jordan</b>	77,718	6,057	15,544	8%	9,487
<b>Turkey</b>	145,310	1,784	29,062	1%	27,278
<b>Syria IDPs (2014)</b>	969,760 <sup>(d)</sup>	164,859 (not possible to determine) <sup>(c)</sup>	193,952	17%	29,093
<b>Other</b>	54,552	4,224	10,910	8%	6,686
<b>Total (excl. Syria 2010)</b>	1,393,796	185,473	278,759	13%	93,286

<sup>(a)</sup> Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics

<sup>(b)</sup> Estimation based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Population Division (2013). World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision. Because the UN breaks down in age groups of five years (0-5; 6-10; 11-15; 16-20; 20-25; etc.) from 1950 to 2010, we calculate people aged 15-20 x 50% + people aged 20-25

<sup>(c)</sup> A note of caution: This, more than the figures for the other countries, is a very rough estimate meant solely to give a sense of scale of the problem within the country. This guess indicates a loss of about 3% in participation but this should be in no way taken as precise as the situation is probably far worse than this.

<sup>(d)</sup> Estimation based on an IDP population of 7.6m (reported by the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO)).

These calculations are rough estimates meant solely to give a sense of the problem's scale. Particularly for Syria there are no reliable post-2010 statistics. The data for Syria are extrapolations based on information gathered through interviews and the recent article by *Al-Fanar*—a venture philanthropy organization working in the Arab world with its own dedicated discussion platform on higher education—according to which “[...] Syrian universities have lost about one third of their professors, while around 100,000 students have dropped out, according to official statements, which could well be minimizing the problem”.

Since there are accurate (albeit fluctuating over time) data from UNHCR about the refugee population in Jordan, including a breakdown for the 18-24 age group (not available for all neighbouring countries), this information is used as the base for extrapolating the demand in the other countries (whilst remaining well aware that the situations differ and that this exercise is meant to provide a sense of the problem). In Jordan the 18-24 population of Syrian refugees is about 29% of the 18-59 age group, which in turn is 44% of the total refugee population (and this percentage is similar in all neighbouring countries). The analysis, hence, assumes that in Syria the 18-24 group is approximately 29% of 44% of the total IDP population (as reported by the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department, ECHO<sup>2</sup>). That is,  $7.6m \times 44\% \times 29\% = 969,760$ . Subsequently, an estimation had to be made as to how many IDPs aged 18-24 had to abandon their study. In the absence of hard data, one may assume that—as reported in February 2015 by *Al-Fanar*—about 15% had to abandon their studies. This corresponds to the reported  $\pm 100,000$  drop-outs over pre-war enrolments of over 600,000 indicated by the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics. A 15% loss in participation calculated over an “normal” 20% enrolment rate among 18-24 year olds leads to a conservative estimate that about 29,000 IDP students are missing out on further and higher education in Syria alone ( $969,760 \times 20\% = 193,952$ ;  $193,952 - 15\% = 164,859$ ;  $193,952 - 164,859 = 29,093$ , which may be seen as the estimated gap in IDP participation).

<sup>2</sup> See the EC's “Syria Crisis Facts and Figures” updated to 6 March 2015, at: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/syria\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/syria_en.pdf)

Similar extrapolations were made for other neighbouring countries, using information from UNHCR. However, UNHCR does not provide the numbers of 18-59 year olds in neighbouring countries. Hence, extrapolations were made by assuming about 29% of the official UNHCR data for 18-59 year-olds were between 18 and 24<sup>3</sup>. Information on participation rates in neighbouring countries was provided by the relevant authorities (e.g. ministry or the accreditation agency) in the countries themselves. The total gap in participation across the region is, thus, estimated at between 90,000 and 100,000 persons.

Two final considerations are that:

- (a) These extrapolations are an underestimation of the problem, given that they are based on refugees registered with UNHCR;
- (b) The number of people in need has been changing at a very fast pace over the last year(s), which also means that these estimates are likely to be higher at the time this Action Document is released. For example, as of March 2015 the estimated number of IDPs is 7.6m but this was 6.5m just four months prior.

*Sector context: policies and challenges*

### **2.3. Lessons learnt**

- Several initiatives already exist in the region. These initiatives are usually independent from one another (i.e. there is little coordination among the different donors and providers). Coordination of initiatives, and information-sharing would improve efficiency, reduce overlap and cater for higher numbers of Syrians in need of further and higher education;
- To ensure project effectiveness, participation by local organisations is essential. There are systemic weaknesses of the higher education systems in the region (including for example a lack of capacity to cater for local students). Activities should be regionally-driven and relate to national development strategies and plans. Moreover, in the case of refugees, the needs of hosting communities should also be taken into account: the implemented actions should also benefit to local institutions/ students to the extent possible;
- In crisis situations, tangible and quick results are critical to build confidence in national institutions, to reduce the possibility of a 'lost generation' of higher education students, and to reinforce trust in the international community;
- Donor-funded projects are not always coordinated with the governments of the neighbouring countries where they are implemented and are not always evaluated nationally. Moreover, most donor-funded projects are not coordinated amongst each other, which leads to inefficiencies in information to and delivery opportunities for the target group;
- For the target group, it is difficult to identify and find the most appropriate further or higher education opportunity;
- The gap in the target group's participation in higher education is too great to fill with the existing scholarship schemes. To optimise the project's outcomes, the project should look beyond the immediate financial constraints of individual Syrians aged 18-28 who wish to access tertiary education, and also address problems such as the adequacy of the target group's skill set and social integration;
- Nobody knows when the conflict in Syria will end but policies in neighbouring countries are based on the assumption that the situation is temporary even though it is expected that a number of refugees will ultimately settle in the hosting communities. The skills that the

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<sup>3</sup> A further approximation—i.e. calculating 44% of all refugees to estimate the persons between 18 and 59—, though consistent with the way the number of 18-24 IDPs is estimated, is unnecessary

target group will have to develop for the future must not be limited to academic higher education but should also cover tertiary level technical and vocational studies, needed both for the future reconstruction of Syria and to contribute to host communities. Therefore, the project should promote both further and higher education;

- Compliance with a set of formal prerequisites that the target group must fulfil (e.g. the possession of the necessary secondary diplomas to be eligible for further and higher education) is a necessary condition that the project has little power to influence. Notwithstanding compliance with national regulations, the project must ensure participation and cooperation of local partners to:
  - Find flexible solutions for acceptance to regular programmes in hosting countries (e.g. allowing beneficiaries a longer time span to produce necessary documents);
  - Find flexible solutions to enable the recognition of Syrian's prior (experiential) learning;
  - Find flexible solutions to enable the acceptance of online learning.

## 2.4. Complementary actions

There are several initiatives already in place provided by an array of different organisations.

The table below presents the key players and the further and higher education options for Syrian students in the region. The table specifies the EQF-level covered by the initiatives, the approximate number of beneficiaries and the countries involved (i.e. the residence of Syrian applicants and possible destinations). The EQF levels indicate the achievement of learning outcomes at that particular EQF level though not necessarily the completion of a degree. The totals are estimates, which include the beneficiaries of short and sub-tertiary courses.

Actor	EQF level (or Equivalent)	Approximate number of beneficiaries (p/y)	Programme	Country
<b>AMIDEAST (funds from US gov / USAID)</b>	6	55	Tomorrow's Leaders Hope Fund Undergraduate Scholarship	Middle East; Lebanon
<b>AUF</b>	6 and above	50		Syria and Lebanon
<b>British Council</b>	Below 6	1,500		Jordan and Lebanon
<b>DAAD</b>	6 and above	200	Leaderships for Syria	Any
<b>EC</b>	7-8	100 (Syrian special windows)	Erasmus Mundus	Syria
<b>IIE</b>	6 and above	200	IIE Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis From Camps to Campus	Any
<b>Jesuit Commons</b>	Below 5	230	Higher education at the Margins	Syria and Jordan
<b>Jusoor</b>	6 - 7	12		Global
<b>LASeR</b>	6 and above	670		Lebanon
<b>NUFFIC</b>	>6 (professional courses)	160	MENA Scholarship Programme (MSP)	MENA countries excluding Syria
<b>NRC</b>	Below 6	3,700	Youth Education Programme	Jordan and Lebanon
<b>Sampaio Foundation</b>	6 and above	600	Global Platform for Syrian Students	Global
<b>SPARK</b>	7	100	(Manages the MSP)	Turkey / The

Actor	EQF level (or Equivalent)	Approximate number of beneficiaries (p/y)	Programme	Country
			“Syrian summer University in Exile”	Netherlands
<b>Swedish Institute Study Scholarships</b>	7	15		Syria / Sweden
<b>UNESCO</b>	6 and above		Youth Education for Stability	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria
<b>UNHCR</b>	6	105	Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI)	Jordan (45), Lebanon (60)
<b>UNRWA</b>	6	50		Regional
<b>WUSC</b>	5 and above	74	Student Refugee Programme	Global
<b>Total (all forms of provision)</b>		±7,000		

## 2.5. Donor coordination

The total EU Funding for Humanitarian Aid for the Syrian crisis since January 2012 amounts to €817m, while the total overall EU (i.e. EU + Member States) funding for the crisis amounts to €3.35bn (for relief and recovery assistance to Syrians in their country and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt).

- The European Commission has channelled more than €500 million to Jordan through humanitarian, crisis response and development instruments. Key initiatives in Jordan include the following:
  - The Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the Commission (ECHO) has so far provided €147.4 million for the provision of services such as health, food assistance, non-food items, shelter, water and sanitation, psychosocial support and protection to refugees both in camps and living in urban settings. The provision of basic services in villages and towns across the country also includes vulnerable Jordanian families;
  - Jordan has formulated a National Resilience Plan for the Kuwait II pledging conference in January 2014 in order to identify support areas for Syrian refugees. This has been a production by the Host Community Support Platform under leadership of MOPIC (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation) with support of UN agencies and international donors.
- With the support of the World Bank and the UN, at the end of 2013 Lebanon developed a set of recommendations in its “Roadmap for moving towards stabilization from the impact of the Syrian Conflict”<sup>4</sup>. The roadmap is a foundation of the “Lebanon Response Plan” and the 2015 “Lebanon Crisis Response Plan” (LCRP), which describe how the Government of Lebanon and its partners will work together to reinforce stability through this crisis while also protecting Lebanon’s most vulnerable inhabitants;
- Since the beginning of the crisis the European Commission alone has allocated almost €450m in assistance to support the Lebanese government in coping with the refugee crisis and to improve living conditions for refugees and vulnerable communities, including more

<sup>4</sup> See: [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/PCPD/pdf/lebanon\\_roadmap.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/PCPD/pdf/lebanon_roadmap.pdf)

than €172 million from the humanitarian budget<sup>5</sup>. On 31 January 2015, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, pledged a further €37m to Lebanon to face the repercussions of the flow of Syrian refugees in to Lebanon;

- A new EU comprehensive strategy has been developed<sup>6</sup> to tackle the crises in Syria and Iraq, which will include €1bn in funding over the next two years. The European Commission will contribute at least €400m (i.e. 40% of the total package) in humanitarian aid which to cover needs inside Syria, Iraq and in neighbouring countries. According to the Strategy, in the short-term, EU civil society projects funded through the European Neighbourhood Instrument—ENI— (€17m) and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace—IcSP— (€12m) will contribute to the capacity-building of Syrian civil society organisations, provision of basic services, rule of law measures and the development of an inclusive, participatory political environment at local level;
- UNICEF has launched a campaign called No Lost Generation referring to the Syrian crisis, but so far not addressed the issue of higher education since this is outside their mandate. Within Lebanon an inter-agency UN response has also been set-up;
- The EU has also supported students from Syria and countries of the region through the Erasmus Mundus programme, and has provided capacity building assistance to higher education institutions through the Tempus programme;
- The countries of the region, including Syria, are now partner countries of the newly launched Erasmus + programme;
- Other donors are active in the field of higher education and offer a number of programmes, as shown in the table above; however, many of these programmes are not enshrined in a strategic framework.

All donors operate within the regulatory boundaries of the countries and in agreement with the relevant authorities. Thus, there is coordination with the national authorities,<sup>7</sup> usually through specific working groups.<sup>8</sup>

However, despite many initiatives there appears to be little coordination (a) among them; (b) with the national authorities; and (c) with other (European) partners. Moreover, as mentioned under section 2.4, most operations either offer activities not framed in a real university programme, or focus on full scholarships outside the region, leaving the mass of students under-served.

### 3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

#### 3.1. Objectives

**Overall objective** of the action is:

*Improved perspectives on life for Syrian refugees in the host countries in the Middle East and in Syria and preparation for post-crisis Syria reconstruction*

The **specific objective** (purpose) of the action is as follows:

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<sup>5</sup> See: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/lebanon\\_syrian\\_crisis\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/lebanon_syrian_crisis_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> See: EC (2015). Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council. Elements for an EU regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the Da'esh threat. At: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/news/20150206\\_JOIN\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/news/20150206_JOIN_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> However, in higher education there is very little coordination and different donors might deal directly with the Ministry responsible for higher education or with other ministries (e.g. Planning and International Cooperation or Labour).

<sup>8</sup> For example the Jordan Response Platform to the Syrian Crisis is a partnership mechanism between the Government of Jordan, donors, and UN agencies to address the Syrian refugee crisis, operating through several thematic working groups (e.g. on health and education).

*Increased participation and equal access to further and higher education in the region for vulnerable Syrian youth who had to abandon their studies as a result of the war and displacements*

### **3.2. Expected results and main activities**

The action has four main results which can be broken down into a number of key activities and sub-activities as shown below.

<p><b>Result 1: A clearinghouse mechanism to provide information to vulnerable Syrian youth on existing opportunities in further and higher education for them is in place.</b></p>
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| <p><i>1.1 Scan the field for existing clearinghouse mechanisms and/or information instruments on further and higher education opportunities for vulnerable Syrian youth;</i></p> <p><i>1.2 Design a clearinghouse mechanism, or scale up one the existing mechanisms, to complement current information instruments identified under 1.1;</i></p> <p><i>1.3 Implement the clearinghouse mechanism:</i></p> <p><i>1.3.1 Publish website;</i></p> <p><i>1.3.2 Disseminate clearinghouse mechanisms with target group, including through the organisation of a communication campaign.</i></p> <p><i>1.4 Monitor target group's use of the clearinghouse mechanism;</i></p> <p><i>1.5 Provide personalised assistance to Syrian students throughout the enrolment process.</i></p> |
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<p><b>Result 2: More Syrian students are enrolled and trained in certified and recognised higher education programmes and further training courses, including innovative further education options.</b></p>
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| <p><i>2.1 Establish mechanisms of participation in certified higher education for vulnerable Syrian youth: within (national) regulatory boundaries and within recognised university system and technical/vocational college systems, set up flexible registration/enrolment mechanisms for vulnerable Syrian youth, in existing or new higher education programmes leading to certification;</i></p> <p><i>2.2 Support broader acceptance of online learning and other innovative approaches to teaching and training: support projects that integrate and use existing or newly designed online learning elements, leading to recognised university certification;</i></p> <p><i>2.3 Monitor the implementation of the supported initiatives.</i></p> |
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<p><b>Result 3: Improved higher education institutions' capacity to provide Syrian youth and other vulnerable groups with opportunities to access further and higher education</b></p>
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| <p><i>3.1 Assess higher education institutions' capacity to cater for vulnerable youth, in particular Syrian youth;</i></p> <p><i>3.2 Develop higher education institutions' capacity to cater for Syrian youth and vulnerable youth:</i></p> <p><i>3.2.1 Support projects establishing teaching and research networks as part of enrolment programmes dedicated to Syrian and vulnerable youth;</i></p> <p><i>3.2.2 Support projects that design, implement and/or pilot flexible learning modalities for Syrian and vulnerable youth, for example projects that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- Use modularization to allow easier recognition of individual learning outcomes;</i></li> <li><i>- Use a mix of learning tools (traditional, on-line, preparatory courses, etc.).</i></li> </ul> |
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<p><b>Result 4: Exchange of experience and continuous learning and improvement of further and higher education interventions in the context of the Syrian crisis is facilitated.</b></p>
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| <p><i>4.1 Design and develop a mechanism (e.g. Website) for facilitating the sharing of good results and best practices (and to stimulate other stakeholders to follow/participate).</i></p> |
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- 4.2 Observe 'supply market' for further and higher education in the region with special focus on Syrian refugees and adapt the programme based on the information gathered.
- 4.3 Continuously collect information and regularly publish/update them.

### **3.3. Risks and assumptions**

*Assumptions/Risks related to result 1:*

- Actors in Syria and the region have an interest in providing required information to feed into the clearinghouse.

*Assumptions/Risks related to result 2:*

- Higher education institutes of the region have the capacities and are willing to participate in the programme;
- National accreditation systems are open for online education;
- Access to internet for refugees is possible;
- Projects are implemented as intended and planned;
- Syrian vulnerable students are interested and can enrol in higher education programmes.

*Assumptions/Risks related to result 3:*

- Involvement and commitment of relevant institutional committees and concerned line ministries (e.g. in the validation of newly developed curricula) is ensured;
- Higher education institutions are open to using some resources (funding, time, personnel) in projects to support access and study success of vulnerable youth. with support from this programme;
- Institutional managers show commitment in the planning and implementation and in developing networks with stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

*Assumptions/Risks related to result 4:*

- Funded projects report honestly and critically;
- Submitters recognise the guidance, feedback and learning provided as useful to prepare high quality proposals, even if funding is limited.

*Assumptions/Risks for achieving the project purpose/specific objective:*

- No further deterioration of the situation in Syria and in host countries;
- Readiness of Syrian and regional further and higher education providers to participate;
- Additional international assistance and finance available.

*Assumptions/Risks for achieving the overall objectives*

- Projects are implemented as intended and planned;
- No further deterioration of the security situation.

### **3.4. Cross-cutting issues**

The programme will be implemented in an instable crisis scenario. Thus, as in humanitarian aid interventions, special attention has to be paid to security issues (e.g. that students have secure access to services) and to the application of do-no-harm principles (e.g. avoid conflicts that can be triggered by a high degree of competition for few opportunities), to inclusiveness (e.g. to give access to the ones most in need, and not to exclude students because of their financial situation). Gender issues have to be strictly considered in all funded projects, as linked to the current situation: equal participation of young men and women in the offered education opportunities has to be guaranteed and monitored.

### **3.5. Stakeholders**

- Facility management, project partners (further and higher education providers, NGOs, government agencies in the region);
- Immediate beneficiaries: Syrian students and families and vulnerable youth in host countries;
- Final beneficiaries: young Syrians and their families, Syrian post-crisis society, further and higher education providers in Syria and in the region, young people in the Middle East.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

### **4.1. Financing agreement**

### **4.2. Indicative operational implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out, is **XXXXXX**

### **4.3. Implementation components and modules**

#### **4.3.1 Call for Proposals (CfPs)**

The programme will fund projects implemented in the region (by national, regional and international organisations) selected through a competitive process, i.e. through one or several call(s) for proposals.

For the achievement of Results 2 and 3, the programme will fund projects implemented in the region (by national, regional and international organisations), to be selected through one or several call(s) for proposals.

Result 1 (setting up of a clearinghouse mechanism) will be implemented either as part of a call for proposals, or through a separate contract. The latter may also include a sub-granting component for Results 2 and 3.

#### **4.3.2 Management structure**

The management structure will depend on the implementation body that will be chosen. A Steering Committee gathering the main stakeholders will meet regularly; the EU delegation to Syria will always attend as observer.

#### 4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

#### 4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in % of total budget	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
Further and higher education assistance projects, to be awarded via a competitive CfP	90.00%	Not yet determined
Management of the Programme	5.00%	Not yet determined
Mid and end evaluation and audit	2.50%	
Communication and dissemination	1.25%	
Contingencies	1.25%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

#### 4.6. Performance monitoring

#### 4.7. Evaluation and audit

Provisions for mid-term and final evaluation of the facility and audit are included in the budget for the management of the facility. The projects will include a budget line on monitoring and evaluation and audit, they shall carry out an obligatory final evaluation, and one external audit per year. Whenever possible, evaluations will be jointly carried out by partners. This will also contribute to harmonise further and higher education support to Syrian refugees and to the host countries in the region, order to make technical cooperation more effective in line with current EU guidelines.<sup>9</sup>

#### 4.8. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU. Discussions between the Government at Ministerial level, the EU and other development partners could be utilised for providing high visibility of the programme, especially if a media event would be organised around such events. All studies, reports, training materials, trainings and seminars supported under this programme will highlight the EU's financial support via logos, stickers and banners. Likewise, training certificates issued will also carry the EU logo next to the logos of the issuing authority/ies. In general, project partners will be expected to familiarise themselves with the EU Visibility Guidelines.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> EC Guidelines No. 3, *Making Technical Cooperation More Effective*, March 2009.

<sup>10</sup> *Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Actions*. EuropeAid: July 2009.